REMARKS

Claims 5, 6, 8, 11 and 12 have been amended. Claims 1-4, 7 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 15-17 have been added.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1-8 and 10-12 under 35 USC § 102 (c) as anticipated by the Dedrick (U.S. 6,016,509) patent. Applicant has cancelled applicant's claims 1-4, 7 and 10, thereby obviating the Examiner's rejection with respect to these claims. Applicant has amended applicant's independent claims 5, 11 and 12, and with respect to these claims, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claims 5, 11 and 12 have been amended to better define applicant's invention. More particularly, amended claim 5 now recites a storage apparatus connected to a network comprising storage area setting means for setting a plurality of storage areas in a storage unit, identification information setting means for setting identification information for each storage area, receiving means for receiving a file data with identification information, storing means for storing the file data in a storage area corresponding to the received identification information and managing means for managing charge information of the file data for each storage area. Applicant's independent claims 11 and 12 directed to a control method and a storage medium, respectively, have been similarly amended.

The constructions recited in applicant's amended independent claims 5, 11 and 12 are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. More particularly, the Dedrick patent does not teach or suggest a storage apparatus comprising storage area setting means for setting a plurality of storage areas in a storage unit, a receiving means for receiving a file data with identification information, a storing means for storing file data in a storage area corresponding

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to the received identification information and a managing means for managing charge

information of the file data for each storage area.

The Dedrick patent is directed to a network system having a metering server coupled to

a clearinghouse server and to multiple client computers. Col. 3, lines 35-49 of the Dedrick

patent cited by the Examiner disclose that the metering server includes a user profile database

including subscriber information data for end users, a transaction database including ender

users' account information, a content database including units of electronic information and an

index database including titles for each unit of electronic information. Col. 7, lines 16-33 of the

Dedrick patent teach that the metering server receives content information from the

clearinghouse server or directly from publishers, transmits titles and possibly a portion of the

content to the client computers, and sends content information to an end user if a request for the

information is received from the user. Col. 7, lines 34-54 of the Dedrick patent further teach

that when the user requests electronic information, the metering server calculates the cost of

such information, determines whether this cost exceeds the user's account balance and, if the

cost does not exceed the account balance, transmits the information to the user and charges the

cost to the user's account.

The Dedrick patent, however, fails to disclose or suggest setting a plurality of storage

areas, setting identification information for each storage area, storing the file data in a storage

area corresponding to the received identification information and managing charge information

of the file data for each storage data. In particular, the Dedrick patent teaches that charges for

electronic information data in the content database are calculated based on the cost type and

cost value associated with the information when such information is requested by an end user.

Col. 7, lines 34-37. However, the patent fails to teach or suggest calculating charges for the

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data in any of the other disclosed databases. Thus, while content titles stored in the index database are transmitted by the server to the client computers, there is no teaching of calculating or assessing charges for transmission of these titles. Accordingly, the metering server of the Dedrick patent only manages charging end users for information data contained in a single database, i.e., the content database, and does not manage charge information of the file data for each storage area of a plurality of storage areas. Applicant's amended independent claims 5, 11 and 12, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite such feature, thus patentably distinguish over the Dedrick patent.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's independent claims 5, 11 and 12, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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